

**OPINIONS OF OHIO FARM OPERATORS
REGARDING AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY ISSUES**

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REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE FOR THE YEAR 1880

Presented to the House of Commons
by Command of Her Majesty

LONDON:
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Between the years 1870 and 1879
the General Land Office has been
the principal agency for the
management of the Crown Lands
in England and Wales.

The following table shows the number of acres of Crown Land
in England and Wales, and the number of acres of Crown Land
in Scotland, at the end of each year from 1870 to 1879.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Fifty-eight percent of the 1005 farm operators in Ohio sent the National Agricultural and Food Policy Preference Survey returned the survey with useable responses. Other than operating larger farms, survey respondents had characteristics similar to those indicated by the 1992 Census of Agriculture.

FARM COMMODITY PROGRAMS AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Of Ohio farm operators, 50% favor a gradual elimination of production controls and price supports, 46% favor a phase out of target prices, and 46% favor elimination of loan rates and commodity loans. These findings suggest that budgetary pressure to reduce farm spending will not meet forceful opposition from Ohio operators. Whether this is a function of the relatively good times experienced during the last few years or is a permanent change in philosophical orientation of the farm sector remains to be seen. Ohio operators were also split regarding the most talked about new farm bill approach, the Iowa Farm Revenue Assurance Program.

Fifty percent of farm operators want the government out of crop insurance and disaster assistance all together. If the government only provided a subsidized crop insurance program (no disaster assistance), only 4% want crop insurance made mandatory.

CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

Farm operators surveyed agree that the Conservation Reserve Program should be continued, but they do not agree on how the program should be continued. Operators are divided on whether the government should regulate farm practices to insure and improve water quality, however they want compensated if practices are regulated.

OTHER ISSUES - International Trade, Food Safety, and Economic Development

While almost two-thirds of the respondents agreed that the U.S. should continue to negotiate more agreements such as NAFTA and GATT, only 38% agreed that export sales of agricultural products should continue to be subsidized.

Farm operators also have an overwhelming concern about food safety. For example, approximately two-thirds of the respondents agreed that meat and meat products sold at retail outlets should carry instructions for proper storage and cooking.

Farm operators responded that the most important needs for economic development in their area was more support for public education, business development, and more law enforcement and crime prevention. A majority of respondents also agreed that tax money should be used to subsidize fuels developed from plants (e.g., ethanol).

OPINIONS OF OHIO FARM OPERATORS REGARDING AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD POLICY ISSUES

The *Food Security Act of 1990* expires in 1995. Debate already is underway regarding its successor. To obtain a picture of Ohio farm operators' opinions concerning likely legislative issues, a random sample of Ohio farm operators were surveyed in March 1994. Issues included farm income support policies, conservation and environmental programs, disaster assistance, international trade, and food safety and nutrition.

Ohio Farm Operator Sample

One thousand and five Ohio farm operators were randomly selected for the survey. Useable responses numbered 583, yielding a 58% useable response rate. The questionnaire along with the average response of all respondents is presented in the Appendix.

Characteristics of the respondents were generally similar to those reported for Ohio farm operators in the 1992 Census of Agriculture. Over 60% of respondents were older than 50, approximately 60% sold \$40,000 or less of farm products, and grains, notably corn and soybeans, were the dominant source of farm income.

Fifty-nine percent of the respondents owned at least 75% of the land they operated. Only 17% owned less than 25% of the land they operated. Ninety percent of the respondents operated as a sole proprietor, while 8% operated in a partnership. The comparable Census numbers were 86% of farms as sole proprietorships and 11% as partnerships.

A notable difference between the survey and Census characteristics was the larger acreage operated by survey respondents. Survey respondents farmed 279 acres on average, while the Census reported an average of 201 acres.

Over 40% of the respondents reported that their household earned \$20,000 or more in off-farm income. Forty-three percent of the respondents had some college education or a college degree. The three most common organizations to which respondents belonged are Farm Bureau (55%), Soybean Association (18%), and Cattlemen's Association (11%). Thirty-nine percent of the respondents participated in the 1993 feed grain price support and acreage reduction program while 28% participated in the 1993 wheat program.

In summary, the survey respondents appear to be representative of the Ohio farm operator population. The only exception is a greater representation of operators of larger farms. This over-representation is common among respondents to surveys of farm operators and was expected.

Opinions Concerning Farm Programs

Fifty percent of the surveyed Ohio farm operators preferred that production controls and associated price supports be gradually eliminated after the *Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990* expires in 1995. Thirty-four percent of the respondents preferred keeping the present program. Only 7% preferred decoupling and even fewer, 3%, preferred mandatory supply controls. This result suggests that after a 60 year presence in farm policy, mandatory supply controls are no longer considered a viable option by Ohio farm operators.

Forty-six percent of survey respondents preferred phasing out target prices. Thirty-two percent support raising target price each year to match the rate of inflation. Only 13% would keep target prices at current levels. Operators who farmed less than 100 acres were slightly more in favor of phasing out target prices than operators who farmed 500 or more acres (53% vs. 43%).

Complete elimination of commodity loan rates and loans is preferred by 46% of the survey respondents. Thirty-eight percent preferred basing the loan rate on the average of market prices to keep prices competitive. Only 9% wanted loan rates raised to make them the primary means of price support.

Almost half of the farm operator respondents preferred phasing out each of the key components of farm price and income support programs. Furthermore, even 40% of the respondents who participated in the feed grain and/or wheat program supported phasing out the programs. Thus, among Ohio farm operators considerable support exists for gradually phasing out current farm programs.

In light of recent budget cuts, farm operators were asked if farm commodity programs had to be cut, where would they prefer the cuts to be. Approximately 38% prefer targeting program benefits to small and medium size farms. This was followed by making payments based on financial need (22%), reducing target prices and deficiency payments (17%), and reducing the number of payment acres (15%). Economic self interest was evident in the responses to this question. Whereas 7% of farm operators with sales of \$250,000 or more preferred targeting payments to small and medium sized farms, 44% of farm operators with sales under \$40,000 preferred this option (Table 1). The operators of larger farms were

**TABLE 1. COMMODITY PROGRAMS CUTS IF NEEDED
FARM OPERATOR OPINION BY FARM SIZE,
OHIO, MARCH 1994.**

Farm Size (Sales)	Target Small & Medium Farms	Target Those with Financial Need	Reduce Target Prices & Deficiency Payments	Reduce Number of Payment Acres	No Response	Total ^a
-----Percent ^b of Operators -----						
Under \$40,000	44	24	16	9	7	100
\$40,000 - \$99,999	34	16	23	19	9	100
\$100,000 - \$249,999	28	19	13	31	7	100
\$250,000 plus	7	25	29	36	4	100
All Farmers	38	22	18	15	7	100

^a Total may not add to 100 due to rounding

^b Percents are based on the following number of respondents by categories: Under \$40,000, 348; \$40,000 to \$99,999, 115; \$100,000 to \$249,999, 67; Over \$250,000, 28; and all farmers, 558.

Source: Original survey data.

more supportive of reducing the number of payment acres (i.e., increasing mandatory flex acres).

A majority (50%) of the surveyed respondents supported increasing the amount of voluntary flex acres, which currently is 10% of base acres. Only 14% of surveyed respondents disagreed with expanding voluntary flex acres. These results suggest that Ohio farm operators strongly support increasing optional flex acres.

Discontentment with the current farm program as well as budgetary pressure has lead to a lively discussion about alternative farm bill mechanisms. One such option is the so-called Iowa farm bill proposal. It proposes that the farm bill include an income safety net equal to 70% of normal crop revenue. Target prices, acreage reduction programs, federal crop insurance and disaster assistance would be eliminated, non-recourse commodity loans and grain reserves would be maintained, but producers could plant any crops in any amount they desire.

Survey respondents were split on this proposal: 32% agreed with it, 39% were unsure, and 29% disagreed with it. There was no discernable pattern regarding differential support for revenue assurance by farm size, age of operator, livestock production, and participation in 1993 farm programs. Thus, while interest in the revenue assurance proposal is substantial, at present a majority of farm operators do not support it.

Thirty-four percent of respondents agreed that the dairy program should be financed by milk producer assessments and administered through a producer marketing board that has the power to control production. Twenty-five percent disagreed with this proposal. In comparison, 60% of farm operators who sold milk disagreed with the proposal and only 29%

agreed with it. Thus, as a group, Ohio dairy farmers strongly disagreed with this proposal alternative to the current dairy program.

Conservation, Environment, & Water Quality Programs

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was established by the *Food Security Act of 1985* to protect highly erodible land with cover crops. Land owners bid their land into the program for a 10-year period. These 10-year contracts will begin maturing in late 1995/early 1996. Thus, a major issue for the 1995 farm and food legislation will be what to do with the 36 million acres of land now enrolled in CRP.

Thirty-three percent of the respondents favor extending some contracts on the most erodible acres with new bids, 22% support replacing CRP with conservation and water quality program incentive payments, 21% favor eliminating the program, and 20% support extending all contracts for several years at the current payment rate per acre. Thus, a majority of the farm operator respondents favor extending CRP, but no clear consensus emerges regarding the exact format of the extension.

By January 1, 1995, farm operators are required to implement approved conservation plans on highly erodible land in order to be eligible for farm program benefits. Fifty-seven percent of survey respondents agreed that this conservation compliance program should be continued. Nineteen percent disagreed. Thus, despite the controversy surrounding conservation compliance and its impact on property rights, a clear majority of farm operators believe compliance should be continued.

Respondents were split on whether or not the government should regulate specified farming practices and land uses to reduce pollution of underground and stream water (38% agreed to 44% disagreed). Forty-eight percent of the survey respondents agreed that to protect water quality all farm operators should be required to plant grass protection strips along stream banks and in waterways, while 34% disagreed. On the other hand, 65% thought that farm operators should be compensated for planting grass protective strips. Furthermore, 75% of the respondents agreed that if government regulations reduce the value of farm property, the owner should be compensated for this loss. These results indicate that, while farm operators are divided on whether the government should regulate farming practices to improve water quality, a substantial majority believe that government should compensate farmers if these regulations reduce land values.

Only 2% of the respondents indicated that their use of pesticides per acre had increased in the past 5 years. Fifty percent of the respondents agreed that farm operators should be required to keep application records on their use of all agricultural pesticides. Thirty-two percent disagreed with this requirement.

Disaster Assistance

A topic generating considerable discussion is the high cost of crop insurance and disaster assistance. Even though farm operators face considerable risks from droughts and floods, almost 50% of the surveyed operators responded that the government should not be in the crop insurance and special disaster assistance business - farmers should buy private crop insurance if they want protection. As shown below, 70% of the farm operators who favor

eliminating all farm commodity programs were in favor of private crop insurance with no government assistance. On the other hand, 71% of the farm operators who want some form of production control and price support (current program, mandatory supply control, or decoupling) also want some form of crop insurance and/or disaster assistance. Given the overlap between support for traditional commodity programs and crop insurance/disaster assistance, an interesting question is which one of the two would these farmers choose if they were forced to make a choice.

Policy	Favor Some Form of Disaster Assistance	Favor No Special Disaster Assistance	No Response	Total
Favor Some Form of a Commodity Program	71%	27%	2%	100
Favor Gradually Eliminate Commodity Programs	28%	70%	2%	100
All Farmers	48%	50%	2%	100

One policy option is to offer a subsidized crop insurance program and no disaster assistance program. If this were to happen, 56% of the survey respondents prefer letting farmers buy crop insurance on a voluntary basis and paying for the coverage based on their individual farm yields. Thirty-six percent of the respondents prefer a voluntary insurance offered on a county or area basis. Less than 5% felt that all farm operators should be required to buy crop insurance.

Other Issues

International Trade

The recent NAFTA and GATT agreements has focused attention on multilateral and bilateral arrangements to further reduce trade barriers. Almost two-thirds of the survey respondents agreed that the U.S. should continue to negotiate such agreements. Only 6% disagree with this strategy. In contrast, much greater disagreement exists over subsidies for agricultural exports. While 38% of the farm operators agree that export sales of agricultural products should continue to be subsidized, 24% disagree. Furthermore, only 23% agree that export sales of value added products should be subsidized instead of bulk commodities.

Food Safety and Nutrition

Approximately two-thirds of the surveyed farm operators agreed that meat and meat products sold at retail outlets should carry instructions for proper storage and cooking. A near majority (49%) also agreed that food inspections should be strengthened to insure safer and better quality food. Thirty-seven percent of the farm operators surveyed often read food labels on packages to find what the product contains. Another 53% read food labels occasionally. Almost 60% of the respondents agreed that food labels should be required to contain more diet and nutrition information. Farm operator families are very concerned about their food and prefer more information about this quality.

In 1993, USDA introduced a food pyramid to illustrate their guidelines for proper nutrition. Forty-three percent of the surveyed respondents had seen the food pyramid. Of these 43%, 71% thought the food pyramid was a useful educational tool. Younger farm

operators, and farm operators with higher off-farm income and farm sales were more likely to have seen the food pyramid. However, the strongest relationship emerged between education level and knowledge of the food pyramid's existence (Table 2). Whereas 64% of the respondents who were college graduates had seen the pyramid, 51% of those with less than 12 years of school had not seen the food pyramid.

**TABLE 2. USDA'S FOOD PYRAMID
SEEN BY FARM OPERATORS, OHIO, MARCH 1994**

Education	Have Seen USDA's Food Pyramid				Total ^a
	Yes	No	Not sure	No Response	
	----- Percent ^b of Operators -----				
Less than 12 years	25	51	20	3	100
High School Graduate	36	23	7	5	100
Some College or Technical School	46	44	8	2	100
College Graduate	64	28	6	2	100
All Farmers	43	45	8	4	100

^a Total may not add to 100 due to rounding

^b Percents are based on the following number of respondents by categories: Less than 12 years, 59; High School Graduate, 268; Some College or Technical School, 127; College Graduate, 121; and all farmers, 575.

Other Issues

Over half of the respondents agreed that biotechnology (the use of living organisms, plants, animals, and microbes to develop different traits in plants, livestock and poultry) will be beneficial to producers and to consumers. A third of the respondents were not sure. A

majority of respondents (58%) also agreed that tax money should be used to subsidize fuels developed from plants (ethanol and soy diesel). Almost 70% of the farm operators agreed that government supported agricultural research should be targeted to benefit small and medium sized farms.

Forty-three percent of the respondents agreed and 26% disagreed that the federal government should increase funding for programs to expand employment and economic activity in rural areas. The most important need for economic development in the area in which the farm operator lived was more support for public education (52%). The next three most common responses were business development (40%), more law enforcement and crime prevention (37%), and new or improved roads (36%).

APPENDIX: Questionnaire and Average Response

** Unless otherwise noted, the percent (%) sign at the end of a line indicates the percent of total respondents who checked that item or category. SA = Strongly Agree, A = Agree, NS = Not Sure, D = Disagree, SD = Strongly Disagree, NR = No Response

SECTION A - FARM COMMODITY PROGRAMS

1. THE POLICY TOWARD PRODUCTION CONTROLS AND ASSOCIATED PRICE SUPPORTS AFTER THE 1990 FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND TRADE ACT (1990 FARM BILL) EXPIRES IN 1995 SHOULD BE:

Gradually eliminate all commodity programs including set aside, price support, deficiency payments and government storage programs	<u>50%</u>
Keep the present program	<u>34%</u>
Separate government payments from production requirements. (Sometimes called decoupling)	<u>7%</u>
Establish a mandatory supply control program with all farmers required to participate after approved in a referendum	<u>3%</u>
No Response	<u>6%</u>

2. THE POLICY TOWARD TARGET PRICES SHOULD BE:

Phase out target prices completely over a 5 to 10 year period	<u>46%</u>
Raise target prices each year to match the rate of inflation	<u>32%</u>
Keep target prices at the current levels	<u>13%</u>
Lower target prices by some percent each year to reduce federal deficiency payments and federal expenditures and to discourage production	<u>3%</u>
No Response	<u>6%</u>

3. OUR COMMODITY LOAN RATE POLICY SHOULD BE:

Eliminate loan rates and commodity loans completely	<u>46%</u>
Base loan rates on the average of market prices to keep price competitive	<u>38%</u>
Raise loan rates as a primary means to support prices	<u>9%</u>
No Response	<u>7%</u>

4. IF SPENDING ON FARM COMMODITY PROGRAMS MUST BE CUT FURTHER, THE PREFERRED CUT IS:

Make payments only to small and medium size farms	<u>38%</u>
Make payments based on financial need	<u>22%</u>
Reduce target prices and deficiency payments	<u>17%</u>
Reduce the number of payment acres (increase flex acres)	<u>15%</u>
No Response	<u>9%</u>

5. FARMERS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO PLANT MORE FLEXIBLE, NON-PAYMENT ACRES IN ANY YEAR AND STILL RETAIN HISTORIC ACREAGE BASES FOR THEIR PROGRAM CROPS.

19% SA 39% A 23% NS 8% D 6% SD 5% NR

6. SOME FORM OF FARMER-OWNED GRAIN RESERVE (FOR) WITH NATIONAL MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM AMOUNTS TO BE STORED SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

6% SA 32% A 39% NS 10% D 9% SD 6% NR

7. A FARM BILL STUDY TEAM HAS PROPOSED THAT THE 1995 FARM BILL INCLUDE AN INCOME SAFETY NET THROUGH A REVENUE ASSURANCE PROGRAM IN WHICH EACH PRODUCER IS ASSURED 70 PERCENT OF NORMAL CROP REVENUE. THE PROPOSED PROGRAM WOULD ELIMINATE TARGET PRICES, ACREAGE REDUCTION PROGRAMS, FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE AND DISASTER ASSISTANCE, ALLOW PRODUCERS TO PLANT WHATEVER CROPS IN ANY AMOUNT THEY DESIRE, AND MAINTAIN NON-RECOURSE COMMODITY LOANS AND GRAIN RESERVES. DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THIS PROPOSAL?

6% SA 26% A 33% NS 20% D 9% SD 6% NR

8. THE DAIRY PROGRAM SHOULD BE FINANCED BY MILK PRODUCER ASSESSMENTS AND ADMINISTERED THROUGH A PRODUCER MARKETING BOARD WITH THE POWER TO CONTROL PRODUCTION.

7% SA 27% A 35% NS 17% D 8% SD 7% NR

SECTION B - CONSERVATION, ENVIRONMENT, & WATER QUALITY PROGRAMS

1. THE CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1985 WITH 10 YEAR CONTRACTS TO PROTECT HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND WITH COVER CROPS. WHEN THESE CONTRACTS BEGIN TO EXPIRE IN 1996, THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD:

Offer to extend some contracts on the most erodible acres with new bids	<u>33%</u>
Replace CRP with conservation and water quality program incentive payments	<u>22%</u>
Discontinue this program	<u>21%</u>
Offer to extend all contracts for several years at the current payment rate per acre	<u>20%</u>
No response	<u>5%</u>

2. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR FARM PROGRAM BENEFITS, FARMERS ARE REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT APPROVED CONSERVATION PLANS BY JANUARY 1, 1995. THIS COMPLIANCE PROGRAM SHOULD BE CONTINUED.

10% SA 47% A 20% NS 13% D 6% SD 4% NR

3. GOVERNMENT SHOULD REGULATE SPECIFIED FARMING PRACTICES AND LAND USES TO REDUCE POLLUTION OF UNDERGROUND AND STREAM WATER.

7% SA 31% A 17% NS 29% D 14% SD 4% NR

4. TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY, ALL FARMERS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO PLANT GRASS PROTECTION STRIPS ALONG STREAM BANKS AND IN WATERWAYS.

8% SA 40% A 14% NS 24% D 10% SD 3% NR

5. FARMERS SHOULD BE COMPENSATED FOR PLANTING GRASS PROTECTIVE STRIPS ALONG STREAM BANKS AND IN WATERWAYS.

15% SA 50% A 10% NS 16% D 6% SD 3% NR

6. WHEN GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS REDUCE THE VALUE OF FARM PROPERTY, THE OWNER SHOULD BE COMPENSATED FOR THIS LOSS.

26% SA 49% A 11% NS 7% D 3% SD 3% NR

7. COMPARED WITH 5 YEARS AGO, AMOUNT OF AG PESTICIDES (ACTIVE INGREDIENT) YOU USE PER ACRE IS?

2% More 41% About the Same 43% Less 8% Don't Know 6% No Response

8. FARMERS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO KEEP APPLICATION RECORDS ON THEIR USE OF ALL AG PESTICIDES.

6% SA 44% A 15% NS 26% D 6% SD 3% NR

9. FARMERS SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO DRAIN WETLANDS TO PLANT CROPS.

6% SA 25% A 17% NS 32% D 18% SD 3% NR

SECTION C - DISASTER ASSISTANCE

1. MAJOR DROUGHTS AND FLOODS SHOW THE HIGH RISKS FARMERS FACE. SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT PROTECT FARMERS FROM SUCH DISASTERS?

<u>No.</u> Let farmers buy private crop insurance if they want protection and get the government out of crop insurance and special disaster assistance.	<u>49%</u>
<u>Yes.</u> Develop a permanent disaster program for losses that exceed 50 percent and encourage farmers to buy additional protection by using private crop insurance.	<u>21%</u>
<u>Yes.</u> Let Congress decide each year about disaster aid programs.	<u>17%</u>
<u>Yes.</u> Set up a mandatory crop insurance program for all farmers as a condition of eligibility for additional disaster payments.	<u>11%</u>
No response	<u>3%</u>

2. IF THE GOVERNMENT WERE TO OFFER A SUBSIDIZED CROP INSURANCE PROGRAM AND NO DISASTER PROGRAM, WHICH TYPE OF PROGRAM WOULD YOU PREFER.

Let the farmers buy crop insurance on a voluntary basis, paying for coverage based on their individual farm yields	<u>56%</u>
Let farmers buy crop insurance on a voluntary basis, but offer lower premiums by basing premiums on county average yields with no pay-off unless county yields drop more than some specified percent.	<u>36%</u>
Require all farmers to buy crop insurance	<u>4%</u>
No response	<u>5%</u>

SECTION D - INTERNATIONAL TRADE

1. BEYOND THE CURRENT NAFTA AND GATT AGREEMENTS, THE U.S. SHOULD CONTINUE TO VIGOROUSLY NEGOTIATE MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FURTHER REDUCE TRADE BARRIERS.

14% SA 50% A 22% NS 5% D 1% SD 8% NR

2. THE U.S. SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUBSIDIZE EXPORT SALES OF AG PRODUCTS.

5% SA 33% A 31% NS 19% D 5% SD 7% NR

3. THE U.S. SHOULD SUBSIDIZE EXPORTS OF VALUE ADDED PRODUCTS INSTEAD OF BULK COMMODITIES.

2% SA 21% A 42% NS 22% D 5% SD 8% NR

4. THE U.S. SHOULD CONTINUE TO DECREASE ITS FUNDING OF FOREIGN FOOD AID.

11% SA 38% A 24% NS 17% D 2% SD 8% NR

SECTION E - FOOD AID

1. USDA'S FOOD PROGRAMS SHOULD BE SHIFTED TO CASH GRANTS & DISTRIBUTED BY THE STATES.

8% SA 37% A 25% NS 16% D 8% SD 6% NR

2. FOOD STAMPS SHOULD BE DISTRIBUTED ONLY TO ELDERLY AND FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHICH HAVE INCOMES BELOW POVERTY LEVELS.

21% SA 54% A 11% NS 7% D 2% SD 6% NR

SECTION F - FOOD SAFETY

1. MEAT & MEAT PRODUCTS SOLD AT RETAIL SHOULD CARRY INSTRUCTIONS FOR PROPER STORAGE/COOKING.

11% SA 56% A 9% NS 16% D 3% SD 5% NR

2. FOOD INSPECTIONS SHOULD BE STRENGTHENED TO INSURE SAFER & BETTER QUALITY FOODS.

14% SA 56% A 12% NS 12% D 2% SD 5% NR

3. IMPORT FOOD PRODUCTS CURRENTLY MEET THE SAME SAFETY REQUIREMENTS AS DOMESTIC PRODUCTS.

18% SA 31% A 24% NS 16% D 6% SD 5% NR

SECTION G - FOOD AND NUTRITION

1. HAVE YOU SEEN THE USDA FOOD PYRAMID WITH GUIDELINES FOR PROPER NUTRITION?

43% Yes 45% No 8% Not Sure 4% No Response

IF YES, DO YOU THINK IT IS A USEFUL EDUCATIONAL TOOL?

72% Yes 12% No 16% Not Sure 0% No Response

2. FOOD LABELS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO CONTAIN MORE DIET AND NUTRITION INFORMATION.

9% SA 49% A 20% NS 16% D 1% SD 6% NR

3. DO YOU READ FOOD LABELS ON PACKAGES TO FIND WHAT THE PRODUCT CONTAINS?

37% Often 53% Occasionally 6% Never 4% No Response

SECTION I - OTHER ISSUES

- 1a. BIOTECHNOLOGY (THE USE OF LIVING ORGANISMS, PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND MICROBES TO DEVELOP DIFFERENT TRAITS IN PLANTS, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY) WILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR PRODUCERS.

8% SA 44% A 34% NS 6% D 1% SD 7% NR

- 1b. AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY WILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR CONSUMERS.

8% SA 46% A 33% NS 5% D 2% SD 6% NR

2. TAX MONEY SHOULD BE USED TO SUBSIDIZE FUELS DEVELOPED FROM PLANTS (ETHANOL AND SOY SEED).

12% SA 46% A 17% NS 16% D 4% SD 5% NR

3. GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SHOULD BE TARGETED TO BENEFIT SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED FARMS.

13% SA 56% A 13% NS 10% D 3% SD 5% NR

4. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD INCREASE FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS TO EXPAND EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC ACTIVITY IN RURAL AREAS.

6% SA 37% A 25% NS 20% D 6% SD 7% NR

5. THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT NEEDS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN YOUR AREA:

More support for public education	<u>52%</u>	New or improved bridges	<u>24%</u>
Business development	<u>40%</u>	Improved health care facilities	<u>23%</u>
More law enforcement and crime prevention	<u>37%</u>	New or improved sewage plants	<u>11%</u>
New or improved roads	<u>36%</u>	Other	<u>7%</u>
Public training to improve worker's skills	<u>30%</u>	No response	<u>5%</u>

SECTION J - PERSONAL DATA

AGE: Under 35 5% 35-49 26% 50-64 42% 65 or over 26% No response 2%

AVERAGE ANNUAL GROSS SALES (INCLUDING GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS) FROM FARM?

Under \$40,000	<u>60%</u>	\$100,000 - \$249,999	<u>12%</u>	\$500,000 plus	<u>1%</u>
\$40,000 - \$99,999	<u>20%</u>	\$250,000 - \$499,999	<u>4%</u>	No response	<u>4%</u>

PERCENT OF TOTAL 1993 FARM CASH RECEIPTS FROM LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCT SALES:

None	<u>39%</u>	26 - 50%	<u>9%</u>	76 - 100%	<u>19%</u>
1 - 25%	<u>20%</u>	51 - 75%	<u>9%</u>	No response	<u>4%</u>

LAST YEAR OF SCHOOL YOU COMPLETED:

Grade School	<u>3%</u>	Some college or technical school	<u>22%</u>
Some high school	<u>7%</u>	Graduated from college	<u>21%</u>
Graduated from high school	<u>46%</u>	No response	<u>1%</u>

APPROXIMATE OFF-FARM INCOME:

Under \$10,000	<u>22%</u>	\$20,000 - \$39,999	<u>25%</u>	No response	<u>24%</u>
\$10,000 - \$19,999	<u>11%</u>	\$40,000 plus	<u>19%</u>		

CASH RECEIPTS FOR THE FOLLOWING IN 1993:

	<u>Percent Reporting</u>	<u>Average Amount</u>
Beans	<u>44%</u>	<u>\$30,128</u>
Corn	<u>42%</u>	<u>\$31,623</u>
Cattle	<u>36%</u>	<u>\$13,473</u>
Wheat	<u>32%</u>	<u>\$ 6,295</u>
Other	<u>20%</u>	<u>\$18,681</u>
Hogs	<u>8%</u>	<u>\$19,098</u>
Milk	<u>8%</u>	<u>\$85,670</u>
Poultry	<u>2%</u>	<u>\$40,441</u>
No response	<u>23%</u>	

PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS DURING 1993:

Price support and acreage reduction

Wheat	<u>28%</u>
Feed Grain	<u>39%</u>
Conservation Reserve	<u>6%</u>
Other	<u>2%</u>

Farmer Owned Reserve	<u>1%</u>
Wool/Mohair	<u>6%</u>
Disaster Program	<u>6%</u>
No Response/None	<u>48%</u>

PERCENT OF THE LAND FARMED THAT IS OWNED:

None	<u>7%</u>	26 - 50%	<u>13%</u>	76 - 100%	<u>59%</u>
1 - 25%	<u>10%</u>	51 - 75%	<u>9%</u>	No response	<u>2%</u>

ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERSHIP IN 1993:

Farm Bureau	<u>55%</u>
Soybean Association	<u>18%</u>
Cattlemen's Association	<u>11%</u>
Corn Growers	<u>7%</u>
Labor Union	<u>7%</u>
Milk Producers	<u>6%</u>
Grange	<u>5%</u>

Pork Producers	<u>5%</u>
Other	<u>5%</u>
Farmers Union	<u>4%</u>
National Farmers Organization	<u>2%</u>
Wheat Growers	<u>1%</u>
American Agriculture Movement	<u>0%</u>
No Response (None)	<u>28%</u>

ACRES OPERATED IN 1993: 279 average

ACRES PLANTED IN 1993

Percent Reporting

Average Acres

Corn	<u>71%</u>
Soybeans	<u>61%</u>
All Wheat	<u>50%</u>
Alfalfa & Alfalfa Mixtures (cut for hay)	<u>40%</u>
All other hay cut	<u>32%</u>
Oats	<u>19%</u>

<u>111</u>
<u>164</u>
<u>51</u>
<u>32</u>
<u>32</u>
<u>14</u>

NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK & POULTRY ON FARM JANUARY 1, 1994.

Percent Reporting

Average No.

All Cattle & Calves (including dairy type)
Beef Cows
Largest # of cattle on feed at any one time last year
All Hogs & Pigs
Milk Cows (dry & in milk)
All Sheep
Hens & Pullets of laying age

<u>52%</u>	<u>41</u>
<u>31%</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>29%</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>12%</u>	<u>149</u>
<u>11%</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>10%</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>8%</u>	<u>1886</u>

BEST DESCRIPTION OF THE MANAGEMENT OF YOUR FARMING OR RANCHING OPERATION

Individually operated land	<u>90%</u>
Partnership	<u>8%</u>

Hired Manager	<u>2%</u>
Other	<u>1%</u>

No Response 0%